

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and versions:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) An image processing method for processing an input document image, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying an instruction input window to receive an instruction from a user as to whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

determining, based on the user instruction received in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected;

automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; and

rotating the document image according to a rotation angle instructed by the user if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected.

26. (New) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said automatic discrimination step includes outputting data indicating that the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated, when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

27. (New) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said automatic discrimination step includes discriminating the orientation of the document image by character-recognizing character images included in the document image.

28. (New) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said automatic discrimination step includes discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 or 270 degrees.

29. (New) An image processing method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of storing the outputted data as information relating to the document image when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

30. (New) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the displayed instruction input window further receives an instruction from the user as to whether a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, the method further comprising a step of automatically correcting the tilt of the document image if the user instructs that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected.

31. (New) An image processing method according to claim 30, wherein the tilt angle of the document image is within  $\pm 45$  degrees.

32. (New) An image processing device for processing an input document image, comprising:

means for displaying an instruction input window to receive an instruction from a user as to whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

means for determining, based on the user instruction received in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

means for automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image if said determining means determines that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected;

means for automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if said determining means determines that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; and

means for rotating the document image according to a rotation angle instructed by the user if said determining means determines that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected.

33. (New) An image processing device according to claim 32, wherein said means for automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image outputs

data indicating that the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

34. (New) An image processing device according to claim 32, wherein said means for automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image discriminates the orientation of the document image by character-recognizing character images included in the document image.

35. (New) An image processing device according to claim 32, wherein said means for automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image discriminates the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180, or 270 degrees.

36. (New) An image processing device according to claim 33, further comprising means for storing the outputted data as information relating to the document image when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

37. (New) An image processing device according to claim 32, wherein the displayed instruction input window further receives an instruction from the user as to whether a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, the image processing device further comprising means for automatically correcting the tilt of the document image if the user instructs that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected.

38. (New) An image processing device according to claim 30, wherein the tilt angle of the document image is within  $\pm 45$  degrees.

39. (New) A computer-readable storage medium containing a program for executing processing of an input document image, the program comprising code for:

displaying an instruction input window to receive an instruction from a user as to whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

determining, based on the user instruction received in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected;

automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; and

rotating the document image according to a rotation angle instructed by the user if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected.

40. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 39, wherein said code for automatic discrimination causes outputting of data indicating that the

orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated

41. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 39, wherein said code for automatic discrimination causes discrimination of the orientation of the document image by character-recognizing character images included in the document image.

42. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 39, wherein said automatically discriminating code causes discrimination of the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180, or 270 degrees.

43. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 40, further comprising code for storing the outputted data as information relating to the document image when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

44. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 39, wherein the displayed instruction input window further receives an instruction from the user as to whether a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, the storage medium further comprising code for automatically correcting the tilt of the document image if the user instructs that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected.

45. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the tilt angle of the document image is within  $\pm 45$  degrees.